(ग) ग्रामीण टेलीफोन प्रणाली की स्थापना का औसत व्यय कितना है?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्री राजेश पायलट): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इतनी अधिक क्षमता वाला कोई टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज संस्थापित नहीं किया गया है।

(ख) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में दूरसंचार सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए वर्ष 1991-92 के दौरान रु० 322 करोड़ (अनुमानतः) का बजट प्रावधान रखा गया है।

(ग) कम क्षमता वाले टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों, जैसे 56 लाइनों वाले, 88 लाइनों वाले आदि सामान्यतः ग्रामीण टेलीफोन प्रणाली में लगाए जाते हैं।

56 लाइनों वाली विशेष किस्म की टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज प्रणाली पर लगभग 7 लाख रुपए खर्च होते हैं।

Opening of New Telegraph Offices in Orissa

1306. **SHRI JAGADISH JANI**: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether efforts are being made by Government on opening new telegraph offices and also to modernise the telegraph offices already set up in the past;

(b) if so, steps taken in that regard in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period;

(c) the number of telegraph offices proposed to be opened in Orisa in Eighth Plan;

(d) the number of telegraph offices identified in that State for modernisation in Eight Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One Telegraph Office and 665 combined Post and Telegraph Offices have been opened.

— One computer based Store & Forward-141 system has been installed at Central Telegraph Office, Cuttack.

— Replacement of Electro-Mechanical teleprinters by Electronic teleprinters has been undertaken.

— Introduction of FAX Service undertaken.

(c) 17 Telegraph Offices and 1060 combined Post and Telegraph Offices are proposed to be opened during the Eighth Plan (1990-95).

(d) and (e) 33 Telegraph Offices are proposed to modernisationed during the Eighth Plan (1990-95) Further.

— One Store and Forward Message Switching System-32 Lines will be commissioned at Central Telegraph Office, Cuttack.

— All the Telegraph Offices having Subscribe- Truck Dialling facility would be provided with FAX services.

— Existing Morse Systems in 54 combined Post and Telegraph Offices will be replaced by Electronic Key Boards.

India's relations with Uzbekistan

1307. **SHRI JAGADISH JANI**: Will Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to establish better relations with Uzbekistan;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed by both the countries for that purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Two agreements were signed with Uzbekistan on 17th August, 191 during Uzbek President Mr. Karimov's visit to India.

(c) The agreement on economic cooperation provides for appropriate measures by both sides to facilitate and develop on a stable and lasting basis inter-change in the economic, commercial, scientific-technological and other spheres.

The agreement on cultural cooperation provides for maintenance and strengthening of mutual cooperation in the fields of culture, arts education, science, tourism sports and mass media.

Indian aid for Nepal and Bhutan

1308. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the derails of the aids given to Nepal and Bhutan during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Projected Aid for Nepal and Bhutan till September, 1991 is as under:

Nepal	— 9,81,50,000-00
Bhutan	— 36,17,50,000-00

Relaxation in the conditions for setting up of New Post Offices in Backward/Hill Areas

1309. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any relaxation in the conditions for setting up of new post Offices/Branch Post Offices in backward/hill areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The norms for opening of branch offices in normal rural areas are:—

(i) a minimum population of 3000 in a village or a group of villages.

(ii) a minimum of 3 kms from the nearest existing post office.

and (iii) a minimum of 33/1/3 per cent of the estimated cost of the proposed post office.

In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas the relaxed norms are as follows:

(ii) The population norm is reduced to 500 for a single village or 1000 for a group of villages.

(ii) expected income is reduced to a minimum of 15 per cent of the estimated cost.

and (iii) the criterion of distance can be relaxed in hilly areas in special circumstances.

In the case of departmental sub post office to be opened in the hilly, tribal and backward areas. the permissible limit of loss has been raised to Rs. 4800 per annum as against Rs. 2400 per annum in normal rural areas.

(c) Does not arise.

House Tax on the group Housing Societies Flats in Delhi

1310. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to calculate house tax on the flats built by Group Housing Societies in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey for the purpose,